



Dear Chairman Filler and House Judiciary Members,

Quest Diagnostics is the world's leading provider of diagnostic information services. Clinical laboratories are on the frontlines of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, testing for COVID-19 as well as the antibodies that may indicate a person has been exposed to the virus and has mounted an immune response. Lab testing is critical to the nation's ability to respond to this once-in-a-century public-health crisis. Labs have answered the call and have made substantial investments to increase testing capacities and reconfigure operations at a rapid pace, all in the midst of this pandemic.

We are particularly proud of our presence in the State of Michigan, which includes almost 800 employees, 5 rapid-response labs, and approximately 49 patient service centers. With our robust infrastructure in Michigan, we service nearly 17,000 physicians and 37 hospitals, and we have over 1 million patient encounters annually.

Quest Diagnostics supports Senate Bill 899 and request that the bill be amended to expressly include clinical laboratories and their personnel to be defined as a 'health care facility', which are performing an essential role in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Including clinical laboratories in this legislation will underscore the State's commitment to medical research, the importance of testing, and the need to attract and facilitate the further development of laboratory capacity. Clinical laboratories have demonstrated their essential role in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and going forward – whether in respect to this pandemic or a future health crisis. Such laboratories are and will be essential to securing high quality, high volume and accurate testing facilities for our nation.

Clinical laboratories and their personnel are working tirelessly around the clock to provide the diagnostic information necessary for other healthcare providers and facilities to do their jobs. We respectfully request that labs are included in any legislation protecting front line providers from COVID-19 litigation and claims.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at David.M.Reiner@Questdiagnostics.com or 201-602-3993.

Sincerely,

David M. Reiner

David M. Reiner
Sr. Director, State Government Affairs